

## Celebration of Nebraska Books Set for October 26


*T*he Celebration of Nebraska Books will be held October 26, 2013, from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m., at the Nebraska State Historical Society's Museum of Nebraska History, 15th and P Streets, in downtown Lincoln. This event, free and open to the public, will feature the 2013 One Book One Nebraska book selection, honor winners of the 2013 Jane Geske and Nebraska Book Awards, and announce the reading selection for the 2014 One Book One Nebraska.

The 2013 Nebraska Book Awards ceremony will honor authors and publishers of books with a Nebraska connection published in 2012. Featured winning authors will read from their work and sign copies of their books. The 2013 Jane Geske Award will be presented to the Nebraska Library Commission for their exceptional contribution to literacy, books, reading, libraries, and literature in Nebraska (see related article on page 3). The Jane Geske Award commemorates Geske's passion for books, and was established in recognition of her contributions to the well-being of the libraries of Nebraska. Jane Pope Geske was a founding member of the Nebraska Center for the Book, former director of the Nebraska Library

Commission, and a long-time leader in Nebraska library and literary activities.

This year the Celebration marks the ninth year of One Book One Nebraska—selecting and promoting a book for Nebraska citizens to read to celebrate the literary richness of our state.

*O Pioneers!* by Willa Cather is the 2013 One Book One Nebraska selection. Nebraska libraries and other literary and cultural organizations across the state are hosting activities and events to encourage all Nebraskans to read and discuss the same book (see <http://onebook.nebraska.gov/2013/index.aspx>).

The **Nebraska Center for the Book Annual Meeting** will be held at 2:30 p.m.—just prior to the October 26 Celebration. An Awards Reception honoring the winning authors, book signings, and announcement of the 2014 One Book One Nebraska book choice will conclude the festivities. The 2013 Celebration of Nebraska Books is sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Library Commission, and University of Nebraska Press, in partnership with the Nebraska State Historical Society and Museum of Nebraska History. 

### *A Celebration of Nebraska Books*



**SAVE THE DATE**

**Oct. 26, 2013  
3:30 - 6:30**

**Nebraska  
History Museum  
15th & P Streets  
Lincoln, NE**

**JOIN US TO CELEBRATE:**  
*O Pioneers!*: 2013 One Book One Nebraska  
Nebraska Book Award Winners  
2014 One Book One Nebraska Announcement  
2013 Jane Geske Award Presentation  
Reception and Book Signings

*Thanks so much  
to all of you that  
renewed your  
membership.  
You will continue  
to receive this print  
newsletter in your  
mailbox. If you  
haven't renewed  
your membership,  
it's not too late  
(form on page 3).  
Please continue  
to support your  
Nebraska Center  
for the Book.*

# State Centers for the Book Meet at Library of Congress

*Guest Editorial  
by Charles  
Johanningsmeier,  
University of  
Nebraska Omaha*

On May 6-7, with support from the Nebraska Center for the Book (NCB) and the Library of Congress, I had the wonderful opportunity to attend what is informally known as an “Ideas Exchange” at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. For two days I met with representatives from more than thirty other state centers for the book.

My time in Washington was both very instructive and productive. It was instructive in the way it showed me how NCB efforts to promote reading and literacy in our state compare with those of other states. I was astonished, for instance, to learn that most other states have at least one paid staff member whose job it is to coordinate the Center for the Book activities, and that sometimes these Centers are given a state appropriation. Given that the NCB relies solely on volunteers, I came away with a feeling that we should be very proud of what we have accomplished with so few financial resources.

Two large blocks of time over the course of these two days were devoted to reports on two major programs sponsored by the Library of Congress: “River of Words” (with its headquarters at St. Mary’s College in California) and “Letters about Literature.” “River of Words” integrates visual artistry, writing, and science instruction in elementary schools to heighten students’ awareness of environmental issues.

Unfortunately, it looks as if it would take a great deal of time to coordinate, and it was clear to me that even though the program could be invaluable for young people in our state, NCB has made the correct decision not to develop a program in Nebraska at this time.

The “Letters about Literature” program was the subject of much spirited discussion, chiefly because a number of states felt there were improvements could be made to increase contributions. The NCB’s statewide competition, I felt, measured up quite well to the ones from other states. At the same time, though, I heard some good ideas about how some states had successfully recruited more members of educational systems to get teachers more involved, which consequently had increased the number of students submitting letters about how certain authors’ works had affected their lives.

I also came away from the meetings feeling very proud of what a vibrant Book Awards program and annual Festival we have in Nebraska. Our awards competition, unlike those of some other states, does not lack for entries, and our annual awards ceremony—like the annual Festival—is very well-attended.

Finally, I thought the meetings were very productive in the ways they exposed me to ideas being tried in other states to promote reading

*(continued on page 8)*



Fall 2013 | Volume 23 | No. 3

## Nebraska Center for the Book Board and Committees

### Executive Committee

Mary Ellen Ducey, President; Matt Mason, Past-President; Lois Meyer, Secretary; Donna Kennedy Marvin, Treasurer

### Funding/Membership

Donna Kennedy Marvin; Suzanne Wise

### Nebraska Book Festival

Matt Mason; Mary Ellen Ducey; J.V. Brummels; Erika Hamilton; Cindy Grady; Chuck Johanningsmeier; Becky Faber

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### Publications/Publicity

Mary Ellen Ducey; Molly Fisher; Amanda Gailey; Chuck Johanningsmeier; Mary Jo Ryan (Nebraska Library Commission staff representative)

### Awards Art Coordinator

Denise Brady

### Letters About Literature Coordinator

Laureen Riedesel

Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner is an ex-officio member of all committees.

### 2013 Nebraska Center for the Book Board Meetings

October 26 ..... 2:30 p.m.,

Museum of Nebraska History,  
Lincoln, Nebraska

### Advertising

The NCB News can accept up to four 1/8-page ads for each issue. The advertising rate is \$125 for 1/8-page. NCB News is issued March 15, June 15 and October 15. The advertising and copy deadline is six weeks prior to issue date. For details, contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Center for the Book, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023; phone 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665, e-mail: maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov, [centerforthebook.nebraska.gov](http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov)

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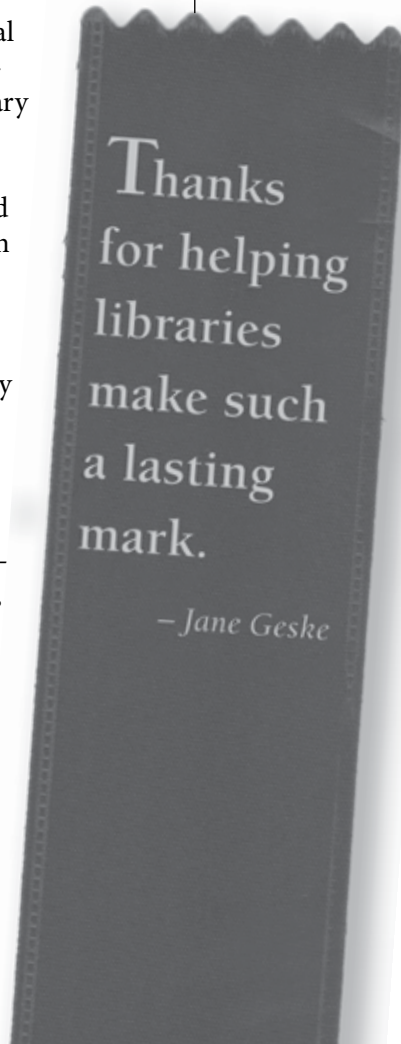
## Geske Award to Honor Library Commission

The Nebraska Center for the Book board selected the Nebraska Library Commission to receive the 2013 Jane Geske Award. This is a special honor, given Jane Geske's association as a past director of the Library Commission. The award will be presented at the Nebraska Center for the Book's annual meeting and Celebration of Nebraska Books on October 26 at the Nebraska State Historical Society's Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln.

Since 1901 the Nebraska Library Commission has been dedicated to the statewide promotion, development, and coordination of library services. Underscoring the Commission's long-term commitment to literature and literacy, several Library Commission staff members served on the founding board of the Nebraska Center for the Book in 1990—along with

Jane Pope Geske. The Nebraska Library Commission has continued to provide staff support and funding to ensure that the activities and efforts of the Nebraska Center for the Book volunteers can be consistently delivered.

The Jane Geske Award is presented annually by the Nebraska Center for the Book. The purpose of the award is to recognize a Nebraska association, organization, business, library, school, academic institution, or other group that has made an exceptional, long-term contribution to one or more of these fields in Nebraska: Literacy, Reading, Bookselling, Books, Libraries, or Writing. Further information about the award and past recipients can be found at <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/awards/janskeaward.html>. 



### What is the Nebraska Center for the Book?

*The Nebraska Center for the Book brings together the state's readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book. We are the people who know and love books, and who value the richness they bring to our lives. Our Nebraska Center supports programs to celebrate and stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word. We have been an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress since 1990.*

### Join the Nebraska Center for the Book

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name/address of a friend who might be interested in NCB membership:

☐ \$15 Individual Membership ☐ \$25 Organizational Membership ☐ Additional Contribution

*Contributions above \$15 are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

**Please send this form and a check to: Nebraska Center for the Book  
The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120 • Lincoln, NE 68508-2023**






# AFCON Annual Meeting Held September 28

Author and intellectual freedom activist ReLeah Lent was the keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska (AFCON), co-sponsored by The Nebraska English Language Arts Council (NELAC) and ACLU Nebraska—with support from the National Council of Teachers of English. Lent has written extensively about literacy, adolescents, and secondary education, including the crucial role of academic freedom for teachers and students. She is the co-author, with Gloria Pipkin, of *At the Schoolhouse Gate: Lessons in Intellectual Freedom* (Heinemann, 2002) and *Keep Them Reading: An Anti-Cen-*

*sorship Handbook for Educators* (Teachers College Press, 2013). For more information about ReLeah Lent, see <http://releahlent.com> and about *Keep Them Reading*, see [www.huffingtonpost.com/david-moshman/an-anticensorship-handbook\\_b\\_2594136.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-moshman/an-anticensorship-handbook_b_2594136.html).

The program included the presentation of academic freedom awards to recognize Peggy Adair, AFCON secretary, legislative coordinator and past president, and the late James McShane, academic freedom activist at UNL and beyond. For more information e-mail David Moshman at [dmoshman1@unl.edu](mailto:dmoshman1@unl.edu) or see [www.academicfreedomnebraska.org](http://www.academicfreedomnebraska.org). 




## One Book One Nebraska Book Talk

by Evelyn Ost,  
Rock County Public  
Library, Bassett

One Book, One Nebraska book talk on Willa Cather's *O Pioneers!* (Bison Books, University of Nebraska Press, 2013), presented by Kay Lynn Kalkowski in March at the Rock County Public Library in Bassett, resulted in a packed library with several attendees traveling all the way from Norfolk, Lincoln, and Omaha! Kalkowski was a lifelong teacher of American literature. She was a well-respected teacher who taught at Rock County High School from 1961 to 1996. She has a doctorate in

Leadership Studies from the Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska and currently lives in Lincoln. When the library started an adult book discussion in 1995, Kalkowski led that initial group during the school year, with about six members. That group has carried on and continues to thrive today with around twenty interested participants and an average attendance of thirteen at their monthly discussions.

During the One Book One Nebraska book talk, Janie Rumbaugh from Omaha commented, "Who would have thought way back then I would travel all the way from Omaha to Bassett to hear my former teacher speak?" And Kalkowski quipped, "Who would have thought I would travel all the way from Lincoln to Bassett to speak to my former students?" 2013 One Book One Nebraska is sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Humanities Nebraska, Nebraska Library Association, Nebraska Library Commission, University of Nebraska Press, and The Willa Cather Foundation. Libraries across Nebraska are joining other literary and cultural organizations in planning book discussions, activities, encouraging Nebraskans to read and discuss this book. For more information see <http://onebook.nebraska.gov/2013/index.aspx>. 

Former teacher Kay  
Lynn Kalkowski leads  
*O Pioneers!* book talk  
at Rock County Public  
Library.

Photo courtesy library staff.



## What Are You Reading?

Nebraska Center for the Book board members share their thoughts about the books they are reading.

*Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President* (Anchor, 2012) by Candice Millard weaves the story of President Garfield's life with that of Charles Guiteau, a delusional man who would come to believe that God had told him to kill the president. This book is wonderfully readable history and is full of many ironies and "what if's" that might have changed history by giving the nation a man who many think would have achieved greatness during his presidency.

**Sharon Bishop**

In Kent Haruf's new book *Benediction* (Knopf, 2013), we see more memorable stories and characters from Holt, CO. Although there is much tragedy, I felt a sense of peace and calmness at the end of the novel. Dad Lewis dies, but Alice is found. Light and darkness, despair and hope, love and hate, death and life—all are set forward in a haunting, masterful way—a way that is kind and caring. I really liked this book, maybe not quite as much as *Plainsong* (Vintage, 2000), but good. The style is just beautiful.

**Molly Fisher**

Douglas Rushkoff's *Present Shock: When Everything Happens Now* (Current Hardcover, 2013) examines how recent technologies have led us to feel always connected, always aware of what's going on socially and politically, and stuck in a continual sense of "now" that has ramifications for the economy, politics, our social lives, and even our sense of narrative. It's a

wonderful analysis of how social media changes the way we think about ourselves and others, and celebrates some consequences of new media while cautioning us about others.

**Amanda Gailey**

I just finished Neil Gaiman's *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* (William Morrow, 2013), a kind of Narnia for fortyish-year-olds, I think. Its main character finds himself recalling forgotten events from his childhood that, though couched in magic and whatnot, end up being a cool reflection on growing older. It's a tough one to put down!

**Matt Mason**

I recently finished reading *The Green Boat: Reviving Ourselves in Our Capsized Culture* (Riverhead Trade, 2013) by Mary Pipher. This book speaks to everyone who wants to make sense of the profound global environmental crisis we face. At the same time, it empowers us to be confident that each of us is capable of being a powerful catalyst for positive change, and that it is not impossible for individuals who are committed to a cause to change policy, combat corrupt politicians, and even stop a pipeline.

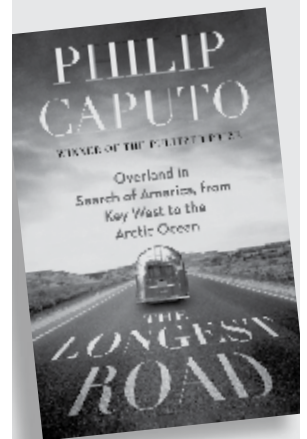
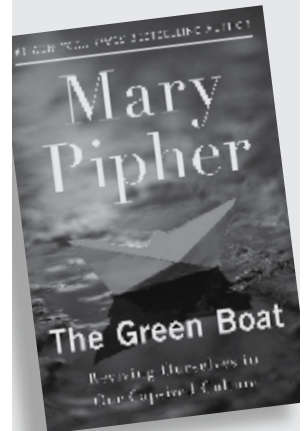
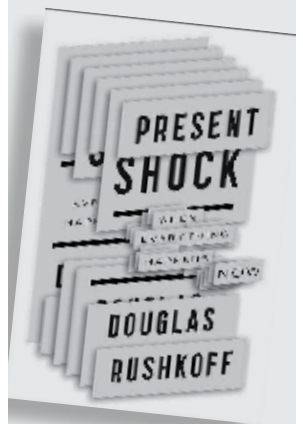
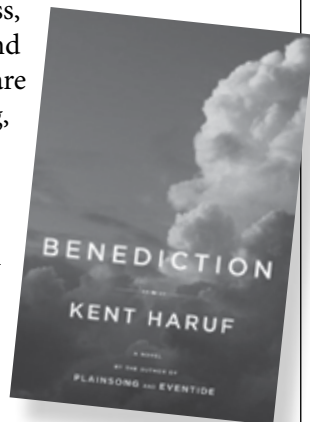
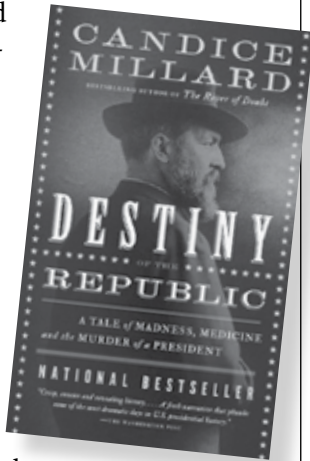
**Lois Meyer**

I read Joy Castro's novel *Nearer Home* (Thomas Dunne Books, 2013), the sequel to Castro's *Hell or High Water* (Thomas Dunne Books, 2012). The book's heroine is Nola Céspedes a young New Orleans newspaper crime reporter. Notable are the rich details about New Orleans unique culture.

**Rod Wagner**

I am currently reading *The Longest Road: Overland in Search of America from Key West to the Arctic Ocean* (Henry Holt and Co., 2013), by Phillip Caputo—really fascinating and kind of reassuring about the state of our country. The author, nearing 70, drives over 11,000 miles from Key West, FL, to Deadhorse, AK, and all along the way asks everyone he meets the same question.... "In these crazy, confused and fragmented times, what is it that is keeping us together as a nation?" The answers are pretty engaging, and remind us that we all have a very common purpose.

**Gary Wasdin**



## American Life in Poetry: Column 436



by Ted Kooser,  
U.S. Poet Laureate,  
2004-2006

*Door Richard's Almanac* said, "He that lieth down with dogs shall rise up with fleas," but that hasn't kept some of us from sleeping with our dogs. Here's a poem about the pleasure of that, by Joyce Sidman, who lives and sleeps in Montana. Her book, *Dark Emperor and Other Poems of the Night*, won a 2011 Newbery Honor Award.

### Dog in Bed

Nose tucked under tail,  
you are a warm, furred planet  
centered in my bed.  
All night I orbit, tangle-limbed,  
in the slim space  
allotted to me.

If I accidentally  
bump you from sleep,  
you shift, groan,  
drape your chin on my hip.

O, that languid, movie-star drape!  
I can never resist it.  
Digging my fingers into your fur,  
kneading,  
I wonder:  
How do you dream?

What do you adore?  
Why should your black silk ears  
feel like happiness?

This is how it is with love.  
Once invited,  
it steps in gently,  
circles twice,  
and takes up as much space  
as you will give it.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation ([www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org)), publisher of *Poetry* magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2003 by Joyce Sidman, whose most recent book of poems is *Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature*, Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2011. Poem reprinted from *The World According to Dog*, Houghton Mifflin, 2003, by permission of Joyce Sidman and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2013 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006. We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts. 📖

## Speakers Offer Cultural Variety

Speakers supported by Humanities Nebraska (HN) criss-cross our state sharing wisdom, music, drama, and laughs on a wide variety of topics. Authors, historians, scholars, artists, and other experts offer nearly three hundred humanities



HUMANITIES NEBRASKA

programs through the Speakers Bureau. From Singer-Songwriter Mike Adams, to Historian Oliver Pollak, to Ellen Wirth, author of *From Society Page to Front Page: Unsung Women of the Nebraska Press* (Bison Books, University of Nebraska Press, 2013)—the variety of resources

and topics is staggering.

Nonprofit organizations and educational or governmental institutions in the state are invited to book a speaker to spark learning and discussion in schools, libraries, museums, senior centers, and other venues. See <http://humanitiesnebraska.org/speakers> for participation details, a list of speakers, and eligibility requirements. Be sure to check out the map of upcoming Nebraska programs at <http://humanitiesnebraska.org/programs>. 📖





# Letters About Literature

## Letters about Literature Contest Opens

Young readers in grades 4 - 12 are invited to write a personal letter to an author for the 2014 Letters About Literature reading and writing promotion program. The letter can be written to any author (living or dead) from any genre (fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic) explaining how that author's work changed the student's view of the world. Prizes will be awarded on both the state and national levels. The Nebraska Center for the Book's panel of judges will select the top letter writers in the state, to be honored in a proclamation-signing ceremony at the state capitol during National Library Week in April 2014. Their winning letters will be placed in the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Bennett Martin Public Library in Lincoln. National winners will receive additional prizes.

Teachers, librarians, and parents can download free teaching materials on reader response and reflective writing, along with contest details and entry forms, at [www.read.gov/letters](http://www.read.gov/letters). Nebraska-specific information (including lists of Nebraska winners of past contests) is available at <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html>.

Submissions from Grades 9-12 must be postmarked by December 10, 2013. Submissions from Grades 4-8 must be postmarked by January 10, 2014.

Sponsored by the Center for the Book in the

Dear Kathleen Benner Duble,

In your book, *Phantoms in the Snow*, Noah struggles with his pacifistic upbringing while staying at an army camp. Whilst there, he questions the morality and necessity of war.

Growing up, I think I was like most boys around the world. Fascinated with war, I was too young to understand or comprehend the consequences of it. At recess, my first grade friends and I would play "Army" and shoot at each other with finger guns. We would run around and when hit, would "die," blissfully ignorant to the fact that people were dying daily in actual warzones around the world. Their suffering, although unknown to us, was real. In hindsight, had I known what was happening, it probably wouldn't have made a difference. I was too young to understand just what that meant.

Now, at age 12, and having read your book, I have begun to think more extensively about war. Although I have known the definition of pacifism for many years, I have never really thought deeply about it, or considered war from a pacifist point of view. Your book changed that. I found myself questioning and viewing war from Noah's perspective, an orphaned and confused 16 year old pacifist during World War II. He struggles with the problem of following his uncle, his only surviving relative and a "phantom" in the 10th Mountain Division, into battle.

This dilemma led Noah, and ultimately me, to examine the question of killing. Would you, if called upon to do so, pick up a weapon and murder other humans? The "enemy" is not necessarily bad people. If they "hate" you, it is because they are told to. They are not very different from you; they have husbands, wives, and children. They are mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters. They have desires and ambitions.

And still, because of a few leaders, good and bad, hundreds of millions of innocent people have lost and will lose their lives to war.

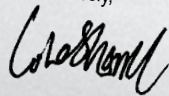
Some die defending their country. Others die because their leader tells them they need to reclaim "unfair" losses, or assist countries that they've allied with. Some are merely in the wrong place at the wrong time. Unfortunately, many times they die simply because of their leader's imperialistic reveries. Furthermore, it is very possible that most of them, unlike Noah, entered war without considering its consequence very deeply. They just plunged in without thought and died.

Ultimately, we must ask ourselves: why are we killing each other?

As you know, in the end, Noah never decides whether war is right or wrong. He concludes, however, that while war may not be right, if necessary, you should fight for, and defend the people you love. In my mind, Noah made the right choice. His decision to follow his uncle into battle comes after a lot of thought on his part. To go to war is a decision that people should not take lightly.


Having not been raised by a pacifistic family, I will never be in Noah's shoes. And, after much thought, I can truthfully say that I do not know what I would do were I in his place. What I do know, however, is that, after having read your book, if I had to go to war, I would think very deeply about it.

Sincerely,



Cole Shank

Cole Shank  
Irving Middle School  
2745 S. 22nd Street  
Lincoln, NE 68502

Library of Congress, in partnership with the Nebraska Center for the Book and Nebraska Library Commission, and locally supported by Houchen Bindery Ltd. 

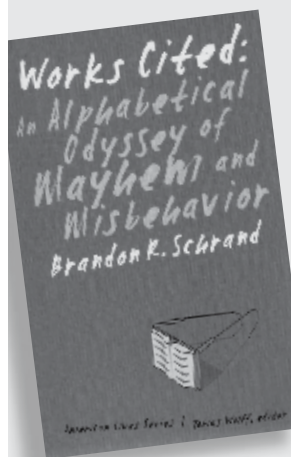
One of Nebraska's  
2013 Winning Letters.

Courtesy Cole Shank.



## Review:

Reviewed by  
Oliver B. Pollak



"I wanted new  
dreams, the ones  
I got from books."

## Works Cited: An Alphabetical Odyssey of Mayhem and Misbehavior

by Brandon R. Schrand

Bison Books, University of Nebraska Press, 2013

ISBN: 978-0-8032-4337-8

*Works Cited: An Alphabetical Odyssey of Mayhem and Misbehavior* by Brandon R. Schrand roams across 27 authors of 31 titles, presented in alphabetical order: Abbey, Edward through Wolff, Tobias. It is not the order in which Schrand read them, they influenced him, nor the chronology of their publication. Therefore, I decided to read the book backwards, Wolff through Abbey. I am skeptical of historians, who have taught history backwards, but this was literature and I was only teaching myself. Romps can go forward, backward, up in the air, in the earth, in circles, and lead nowhere or to erehwon. Index: There isn't one; Sources/Acknowledgments: Your usual acknowledgments.

Schrand is an assistant professor of creative writing at the University of Idaho. A "C" student in high school, he took the seven-year track to complete his undergraduate degree; suggesting a late bloomer. His vignettes on how his reading list interfered with life are reverent and irreverent. It is a hormonal and intellectual coming-of-age story, from boy to man. Reading it backwards did not much disrupt the continuity. Schrand, a Mormon convert did not give

up his hedonistic habits of binge drinking and recreational drugs, which resulted in a couple of arrests and the search for sex. His frank and poignant account of personal debt, not living within one's budget, and the effect of this on the author's young son when a uniformed process server knocked on the door to deliver a lawsuit gave literary grist to my bankruptcy attorney work.

As a historian I like years of publication to facilitate literary history. Thus citing *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens as 1982, Orwell's *1984* as 1981, and John Irving's *Garp* as 1989, is discomfiting. Historicity counts. Dedicated students of reading may identify with references about Erector Sets, brick and board bookshelves, purchasing the *Oxford English Dictionary*, long overdue library books, Strunk and White's *Elements of Style* (Longman, 1999), and Diane Hacker's *Bedford Handbook for Writers* (Bedford, 2009). Tobias Wolff, editor of the University of Nebraska Press Bison Books, American Lives Series and author of *This Boy's Life: A Memoir* (Atlantic Monthly Press, 1988), is featured in Schrand's last chapter.

I've read eleven of Schrand's focus texts. We clearly took different things away from them. That is the marvel of good and great literature. This is an imaginative anthology. You might even read it from the beginning, cover to cover. 📖

## State Centers for the Book Meet at Library of Congress (continued from page 2)

and literacy, which I in turn reported on at the NCB Board meeting in June. Some of the most interesting of these ideas involve adapting to the increasingly prevalent electronic modes of text delivery and communication in order to reach younger people. Having someone in charge of more frequently updating the Web page and coordinating Twitter and Facebook efforts, for instance, has had positive results in other states. Another fascinating project that might be carried out in Nebraska is what has been done in Washington, DC, called "DC by the Book." DCbythebook.org is an interactive

Website where people can scroll over a map and find passages from various literary works that include references to that particular place (these passages can be contributed by any user). One can only imagine what such a map of Nebraska would be like!

I'm so glad the NCB gave me the opportunity to attend this seminar and meet so many interesting people. All of them are, like those on the NCB Board, very dedicated to making reading and literary culture important to the inhabitants of their states. 📖






## Bookmarks: Paper, Papyrus, Metal, Plastic and Leather

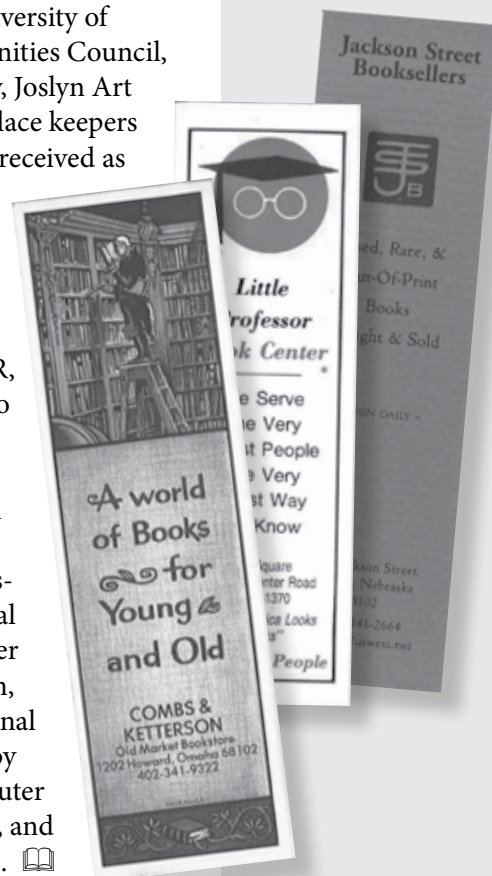
Book lovers are bibliophiles; bookplate collectors are exlibrists; accumulators of bookmarks are just that. Over a thirty-year period I have saved—not collected—about 115 paper, papyrus, plastic, metal, and leather bookmarks. They tell a story about the book trade and advertising, as well as about buying books in new and used main street stores, giant chain stores, and online.

Michael Popek, proprietor of Popeks Used and Rare Books in Otego, New York, wrote the charming *Forgotten Bookmarks: A Bookseller's Collection of Odd Things Lost between the Pages* (Perigee Trade, 2011). He followed with *Handwritten Recipes: A Bookseller's Collection of Curious and Wonderful Recipes Forgotten between the Pages* (Perigee Trade, 2011). Nebraska booksellers produced attractive bookmarks. Tom Rudloff's Antiquarium on Harney St. opened in Omaha in 1969 and decamped to Brownville, NE in 2007. Kiesers, Combs and Ketterson, Little Professor, and Baker Square Book Center disappeared. Borders crashed into bankruptcy. The Bookworm (invoking *The Bookworm* [1850] by Carl Spitzweg), Jackson Street Booksellers, and Bluestem Books are still standing.

Nebraska nonprofits with bookmarks include Nebraska Literature Festival, University of Nebraska Press, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska State Historical Society, Joslyn Art Museum, and Kaneko. Leather place keepers are usually mementos given and received as gifts—from London's National Portrait Gallery, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, from my law partner's visit to the William J. Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, AR, and from KIOS 91.5 Public Radio station—a donation premium.

When a bookmark or Post-it is out of reach we improvise with a handy envelope, business card, scrap of paper, photograph, newspaper clipping, toilet paper, dental floss, postcard, paper-clip, another book, dust jacket, cocktail napkin, rubber band, or dog ear. Traditional bookmarks have been trumped by the iconic information age computer desktop, laptop, notebook, tablet, and iPad tool bar “bookmark” option. 

by Oliver B. Pollak




## Pulitzer Prize-winner to Deliver Governor's Lecture in the Humanities

Historian and Harvard Law Professor Annette Gordon-Reed set the literary world abuzz with her 2009 book, *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*. She became the first black person to win a Pulitzer Prize in History and the first black female to win the National Book Award in the Non-Fiction category. The book also earned twelve other awards, and Gordon-Reed was awarded a national Humanities Medal.

Now Gordon-Reed is working on a new book about Jefferson with co-author Peter S. Onuf called, *“The Most Blessed of Patriarchs:” Thomas Jefferson and the Empire of Imagination*. She will preview their work at Nebraska's 18th annual Governor's Lecture in the Humanities on October 30 at the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha. Immediately following her lecture, Onuf will

join her onstage for further conversation about Jefferson's intellectual development, and both will answer questions from the audience.

Presented by Humanities Nebraska, the 7:30 pm lecture is free and open to the public. The evening will begin with a benefit reception and dinner to support Humanities Nebraska's statewide programming. Jane Renner Hood, former executive director of the organization and long-time supporter of the humanities in Nebraska, will be presented with the 2013 Sower Award in the Humanities.

For further details, contact Humanities Nebraska, 402-474-2131 or [info@humanitiesnebraska.org](mailto:info@humanitiesnebraska.org). 

Annette Gordon-Reed



# The NCB News



THE NEBRASKA  
CENTER FOR  
THE BOOK

an affiliate of  
the Library of Congress

c/o Nebraska Library Commission  
The Atrium  
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**Celebration of Nebraska Books  
October 26, 2013**

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## Calendar of Events:



View the complete  
Nebraska Literary  
Calendar at  
centerforthebook.  
nebraska.gov/  
get\_involved/calendar.  
html

**Willia Cather's Life in Letters: Andrew Jewell**.....October 8..... Stromsburg  
Contact: Stromsburg Public Library, 402-764-7681, stromsburgpl@windstream.net,  
<http://libraries.ne.gov/stromsburg>

**Up the River We Came: Dwight Howe** .....October 13..... Bancroft  
Contact: 402-648-3388, 888-777-4667, neihardt@gpcom.net,  
[www.neihardtcenter.org/Events.html](http://www.neihardtcenter.org/Events.html)

**Teen Read Week: Seek the Unknown** .....October 13-19 .....Nationwide  
Contact: <http://teenreadweek.ning.com>

**Paul A. Olson Seminars in Great Plains Studies: William Farr** .....October 16..... Lincoln  
Contact: Kim Weide, 402-472-3964, kim.weide@unl.edu,  
[www.unl.edu/plains/seminars/olson/olsonseminars.shtml](http://www.unl.edu/plains/seminars/olson/olsonseminars.shtml)

**Great Plains Poetry Pile-Up**.....October 18-19 ..... Lincoln  
Contact: Matt Mason, 402-453-5711, mtmason@gmail.com,  
<http://poetrymenu.com/gppp.html>

**One Book One Nebraska Through Song and Story: Dan Holtz** .....October 24..... Fremont  
Contact: Keene Memorial Library, 402-727-2694, library.info@fremontne.gov,  
[www.fremontne.gov/DocumentCenter/view/2403](http://www.fremontne.gov/DocumentCenter/view/2403)

**NE Center for the Book's Celebration of Nebraska Books** .....October 26..... Lincoln  
Annual Meeting at 2:30 p.m.  
Contact: Mary Jo Ryan, maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665,  
<http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov>, [www.facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook](http://www.facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook)

**Governor's Lecture in the Humanities: Annette Gordon-Reed**.....October 30..... Omaha  
Contact: Humanities Nebraska, 402-474-2131, info@humanitiesnebraska.org,  
<http://humanitiesnebraska.org/program/governors-lecture>

**Anime NebrasKon**.....November 1-3 ..... Omaha  
Contact: register@animenebraskon.com, [www.animenebraskon.com](http://www.animenebraskon.com)

**Fourteenth Annual Laureate's Feast**.....November 10..... Omaha  
Contact: 402-648-3388, 888-777-4667, neihardt@gpcom.net,  
[www.neihardtcenter.org/Events.html](http://www.neihardtcenter.org/Events.html)

**Nebraska Book Festival**.....April 25-26, 2014 ..... Omaha  
Contact: Matt Mason, 402-453-5711, mtmason@gmail.com,  
<http://bookfestival.nebraska.gov>, [www.facebook.com/NebraskaBookFestival](http://www.facebook.com/NebraskaBookFestival)